

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00216 010527Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W

----- 067536

P R 010453Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS DOHA 0216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, QA

SUBJ: PROPOSED MAY '76 TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 44589

1. EMBASSY IS DEFINITELY IN FAVOR OF MISSION VISIT TO DOHA. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT CONTRACTORS AND ENGINEERS ARE LIKELY TO FARE BETTER THAN ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS. MISSION SHOULD PLAN TO SPEND AT LEAST THREE FULL WORKING DAYS HERE.

2. MAY TIME FRAME DOES NOT PRESENT EMBASSY WITH ANY SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, BUT AS WEATHER GETS HOTTER TOWARDS END OF MONTH, LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BEGIN THEIR ANNUAL EXODUS TO COOLER CLIMES. AT PRESENT, BOTH LEADING HOTELS IN DOHA, THE GULF AND THE OASIS, ARE RELATIVELY OPEN IN MAY. RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. PRESUME EXHIBIT SPACE WILL BE REQUIRED. BOTH HOTELS HAVE BALLROOM TYPE FACILITIES THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IF REQUESTED FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE. THERE IS ALSO SUITABLE SPACE ON GROUND FLOOR OF ONE DOWNTOWN OFFICE BUILDING. AT ANY LOCATION, RENTAL WILL BE EXPENSIVE.

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4. DOHA HAS NOT HOSTED TRADE MISSION SINCE EXPANSION OF EMBASSY
IN 1974, AND THOROUGH, EFFECTIVE ADVANCE WORK WILL BE
ESSENTIAL.
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